

Amendments to the Claims:

10/540533
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The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A rare earth transition metal (RE-TM) alloy structure comprising a RE-TM alloy substrate and a noble metal diffusion barrier disposed thereon, therein the RE-TM alloy is a magnetic alloy in which the rare earth element is samarium and the noble metal diffusion barrier comprises platinum metal.

2. (Original) A structure according to claim 1, wherein the RE-TM alloy is a Sm-Co-Cu-Fe-Zr magnetic alloy.

3. (Currently Amended) A structure according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the noble metal layer is in direct contact with the alloy substrate on one side, the opposite side being exposed to the exterior environment.

4. (Currently Amended) A structure according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, which is a permanent magnet article.

5. (Original) A permanent magnet article of claim 4 which is an aerospace component.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a structure according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

7. (Original) A method of reducing rare earth metal depletion at the surface of a RE-TM permanent magnet, which method comprises providing over the surface a noble metal diffusion barrier.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, wherein the RE-TM permanent magnet is a SM-TM high temperature permanent magnet.

9. (New) A structure according to claim 2, wherein the noble metal layer is in direct contact with the alloy substrate on one side, the opposite side being exposed to the exterior environment.

10. (New) A structure according to claim 2, which is a permanent magnet article.

11. (New) A structure according to claim 3, which is a permanent magnet article.

12. (New) A method of forming a structure according to claim 2, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

13. (New) A method of forming a structure according to claim 3, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

14. (New) A method of forming a structure according to claim 4, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.

15. (New) A method of forming a structure according to claim 5, wherein the noble metal diffusion barrier is formed by electroplating.